

Hebard Olsen
<hebard@mbay.net>
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MST

To:fw1ottereis@r1.fws.gov
cc:
bcc:
Subject:Written Comments about scoping for Draft Supplemental EIS

Greg Sanders
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road Suite B
Ventura Ca 939003-7726
fw10ttereis@r1.fws.gov

Dear Sir;

1. It appears the current scope is too limited to make a decision other than flipping a coin.

a) The claims that the otters have and will eat all of the shell fish is neither substantiated or refuted. Numbers are needed! If the otters move they will eat. How much effect?

b) I did not hear a history of how many otters coexisted with how many abaloni and various other harvestable food liked by the sea otter. (numbers are needed)

c) A picture of San Nicolas Island was shown and it was declared to be picturesque and therefore otters should like it. How much otter food is found on San Nicolas Island. Is it otter preferred food? If San Nicolas island is otter paradise with extensive food why would otters leave?

(d) How many otters can San Nicolas island support?

e) The fisherpersons are saying the otter food is in short supply yet non of the food is endangered but the otters are. Some explanation is necessary here.

2 Mitigation by providing 20 breeding areas for food which is endangered by the otters which they can't get into might be cheaper than transporting otters. Lavara would leak out of these breeding areas and increase the type of food which the fisherpersons and the otters could compete to harvest. If each were an acre this might leave the fish and game watch 20 acres instead of the entire coast line of Southern California. Even if each were a square mile 20 square miles would be easier to supervise than a coastline. The cost for the mitigation should be compared to the cost of otter containment.

3 What smaller boundry would be more manageable?

Hebard Olsen
720 Woodcrest Ln
Monterey, Calif